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CHELMSFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

AND

CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR

1956

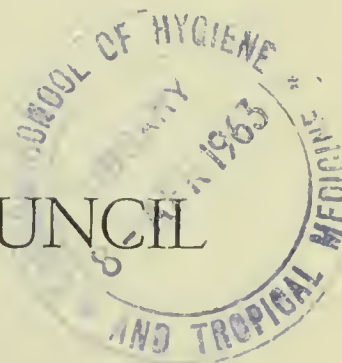


SOUTHEND-ON-SEA :

W. H. Houldershaw, Ltd., 49-55, London Road,

1957.

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STAFF

Clerk of the Rural District Council : C. A. Bohannon.

Deputy Clerk of the Rural District Council : A. J. Little, LL.B.,
D.P.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health : T. D. Blott, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H. (also Medical Officer of Health to Borough of Maldon &
Maldon Port Health Authority. Urban District of Burnham-on-
Crouch, Rural Districts of Chelmsford & Maldon, and Assistant
County Medical Officer, Essex County Council.)

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :

Mrs. E. M. Renzelman (part-time).

CHIEF HEALTH INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Health Inspector and Director of Public Cleansing :

A. Denton Ogden, M.B.E.,
F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., Hon. F.A.P.H.A.*

Deputy Chief Health Inspector :

T. H. C. Bartrop, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.*

Health Inspectors :

L. G. Smart, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.*
F. B. Brewster, A.R.S.H.

Public Cleansing Inspector :

E. J. Moore.

Clerical Staff :

R. H. Hawkes.

Mrs. R. S. Church.

*Qualified Inspectors of Meat and other Foods, Royal Society
of Health.

Council Offices,
New London Road,
Chelmsford.

October, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chelmsford Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present for your consideration my third Annual Report covering the year 1956.

Infectious disease notifications (exclusive of Tuberculosis) numbered 349, the fall being due to a reduction in the number of cases of measles notified during the year. No cases of anterior poliomyelitis were notified and immunisation against this disease began. It is hoped that within the near future all those who wish it will have an opportunity of being immunised.

There were 52 cases of food poisoning mostly of a mild character. Where a cause was identifiable it was usually found to be due to lapses in personal hygiene on the part of food handlers.

There is a growing awareness on the part of food retailers of the need for cleanliness in handling food and most of the food condemned by the Council is in fact voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers. Two matters, however, appear to need further publicity.

(1) Refrigeration is no cure for stale and badly stored food. Too often the fact that food is kept in a refrigerator is taken as a guarantee of fitness for human consumption. This is not so. Fresh hygienically prepared food should be the positive aim of all connected with the food trade.

(2) Tinned food will not keep good for ever. Tinned food requires careful handling and has only a limited shelf life. Such practices as dressing the front of shop windows with tinned food, especially meat, exposed to the sun, leads to a rapid deterioration of the contents. Most tins are marked with a code number and from personal experience I know that it is quite possible to be sold goods which have been in the shops up to five years. Whilst it is not practicable to mark dates on tinned goods nevertheless shopkeepers should ascertain the approximate shelf life of the goods and dispose of them within a reasonable period.

The District's population is growing very rapidly and much of your area is becoming suburban in character. This inevitably leads to technical difficulties in providing health services such as water and sewerage and it is to be regretted that the present financial climate prevents a speeding up in the supply of public health amenities to many villages. In spite of these difficulties the health services of the area have been well maintained and I am much indebted to your Chief Public Health Inspector and his Staff for the help they have given me.

I should also like once again to say how much I appreciate the support I have received from the Chairman and Members of my Committee and indeed the whole Council.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. D. BLOTT.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

The Public Health Committee consists of all the members of the Council (49 in number) and meets on the second Tuesday of each month. The Council meeting is held on the fourth Tuesday in each month.

Chairman of Public Health Committee: Mr. David J. W. Smith.

Vice-Chairman of Public Health Committee : Mrs. A. L. Mitchell.

LIST OF COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL :

General Purposes and Staffing.

Finance.

Buildings and Planning.

Public Health.

Housing.

Building Contracts.

Re-Housing.

Slum Clearance.

Estates Management.

Drainage and Water.

Fuel and Lighting Advisory.

Community Centres.

Council and Staff Joint.

Civil Defence.

Reception (Civil Defence).

Town and County Planning Act, 1954—Section 33.

The Council is represented on the:—

Chelmsford Joint Sewerage Committee.

South-East Essex Superannuation Joint Committee.

Chelmsford Borough and Rural District Road Safety Committee.

East Central-Essex Area Planning Sub-Committee.

Chelmsford and District Tuberculosis After-Care Association.

Chelmsford and District Youth Committee.
 Essex County Branch, Rural District Councils' Association.
 Divisional Executive Education Committee.
 Mid-Essex Health Area Sub-Committee.
 Old People's Committee.
 Chelmsford Hospital House Committee.
 Boreham Airfield Community Centre Committee.
 Essex Boroughs and District Councils' Association.
 Eastern Regional Executive Committee (National Housing
 and Town Planning Council).
 Citizens' Advice Bureau Sub-Committee.
 Standing Conference Civil Defence.
 Civil Defence Joint Advisory Committee.
 Town Development Co-ordinating Committee.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 50. The Council has the duty to arrange the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or is found dead in their area, when no other suitable arrangements can be made.

From 1948-55 thirty-six such burials were arranged and during 1956 arrangements were made for the burial of four persons.

Section 47. Legal action was necessary in one case during the year. This section is concerned with the removal of aged and infirm persons from their homes when they are not receiving adequate care and attention. In most cases after the position has been explained to them the person concerned consents to leave home voluntarily, but sometimes legal action is necessary as a last resort.

Clinics and Treatment Centres Administered by the Essex County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Centre	Address	Sessions (Monthly)
Great Baddow ...	Parish Hall	Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Galleywood ...	Keene Memorial Hall ...	1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 2 p.m.
Little Baddow ...	Memorial Hall	Last Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Boreham ...	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Broomfield ...	Church Room	1st and 3rd Thursdays, 2 p.m.
Chignal Smealey	Congregational Church Room	4th Monday, 2.30 p.m.
Danbury ...	Village Hall	1st & 3rd Thursdays, 2 p.m.
East Hanningfield	Women's Institute Hall ...	1st Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Downham ...	Women's Institute Hall, Downham	1st Friday, 2 p.m.
Highwood ...	New Village Hall	4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.
Ingatestone ...	Working Men's Club ...	2nd & 4th Fridays, 2 p.m.
Great Leighs ...	Village Hall	2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.
Rettendon ...	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2 p.m.
Roxwell ...	Village Hall	3rd Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.
Stock	Congregational Schoolroom	3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.
Great Waltham...	Village Hall	3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Little Waltham...	Chapel Schoolroom ...	1st Tuesday, 2 p.m.
Woodham Ferrers	Village Hall	2nd Monday, 2 p.m.
South Woodham	Village Hall	1st Monday, 2 p.m.
Writtle	Village Hall	2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m.
Runwell	Village Hall	1st & 3rd Tuesdays

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, London Road, Chelmsford. Tuesdays,
2.30 p.m.
Women's Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic, Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford.
Thursdays.

IMMUNISATION CLINIC.

Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. 2nd Monday, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

MINOR AILMENT CLINIC.

Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. Monday, 9 a.m.—11 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC, DENTAL CLINIC, CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC, SPEECH CLINIC.
These clinics are held by appointment and full details can be obtained from
the Area Medical Officer, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

OTHER CLINICS, etc.—

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Broomfield Hospital, Broomfield. Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m.—
12 noon.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Treatment is available at—

- (a) Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, London Road, Chelmsford.
- (b) Essex County Hospital, Colchester.

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.

Coval Lane Clinic, Chelmsford. Tuesday evenings.

HOSPITALS.

The Hospitals in the area belong to the 18th Group, North East Metropolitan
Hospital Board.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES are provided by the Essex County Council.

MORTUARIES.

Situate at—

- (a) St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford.
- (b) Chelmsford & Essex Hospital, Chelmsford.
- (c) Isolation Hospital, Great Baddow. (Infectious Diseases.)

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These services are used by arrangement with the Essex County Council.

TABLE SHOWING LOCAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES
NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

PARISH	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
Great Baddow	..	1	10	48	1	1	—	6	3	—	70
Little Baddow	..	—	—	14	—	5	—	4	1	—	18
Borcham ..	1	—	3	12	—	—	—	8	2	—	22
Broomfield	..	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Chignall	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1
Danbury	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—	—	15
Good Easter	..	—	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	6
East Hanningfield	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
South Hanningfield	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
West Hanningfield	..	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Higwood ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ingatestone & Fryerning	..	6	1	5	1	3	—	1	—	—	17
Great & Little Leighs	..	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
Margaretting	..	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	4
Mashbury	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Mountnessing	..	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pleshey	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	7
Rettendon	1	27	9	1	—	—	16	1	—	29
Roxwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	27
Runwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Sandon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springfield	..	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Stock ..	1	—	4	2	—	—	7	4	1	—	18
Great Waltham	..	—	—	5	—	4	1	—	4	—	14
Little Waltham	..	—	—	6	—	1	1	3	—	—	11
Woodham Ferrers	..	—	—	1	—	—	3	34	1	—	39
Writtle ..	—	—	—	7	—	—	6	2	2	—	17
TOTALS	2	11	52	160	3	16	20	86	21	—	370

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR.

Infectious Diseases	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & over
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles ...	160	6	9	15	12	16	93	3	3	3
Pneumonia ...	16	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	11
Food Poisoning ...	52	1	—	1	1	—	3	3	—	43
Scarlet Fever ...	19	—	—	1	1	3	6	6	2	—
Whooping Cough ...	86	7	7	3	4	12	50	2	—	1
Dysentery ...	11	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
TOTALS ...	349	14	17	21	18	31	155	18	10	65

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis during the year.

Age Periods	*New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	—	—	—	—
1—5	4	1	—	—
5—10	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	1	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—
25—35	2	3	—	—
35—45	2	2	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—
65 & over	2	—	—	—
TOTALS	12	9	—	—

*Not including cases of tuberculosis removed into the District during the year, which had been previously notified elsewhere.

The number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis was 4 and from non-respiratory tuberculosis 1.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible, with number of outbreaks attributed to each	Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food
7	52	NIL	No specific organism isolated	No specific food identified

WATER SUPPLY

The following is a summary of the water supplies from the *Council's mains* for the year ending 31st March, 1957.

Total amount of water supplied ...	463,071,000 gallons
(includes 188,381,000 gallons supplied by meter)	
Total length of water mains in use ...	238.47 miles
Total number of supplies afforded ...	13,248
Total number of metered supplies ...	1,583
New supplies afforded	455
New mains laid	1.85 miles
Mains renewed	4.89 miles
Number of burst mains repaired	79
Number of burst service pipes repaired ...	94

It was not necessary to cart any water to individual properties during the year.

In addition to the water supplied from the Council's mains, a total of 18,230,000 gallons was supplied by the Southend Waterworks Company to the parish of Mountnessing, part of the parish of South Hanningfield and a small part of the parish of Woodham Ferrers during the year 1st January to 31st December 1956.

Copy of a Recent Analysis of Water from the Southend Waterworks Company's Mains.

	Chemical Results in parts per Million	
Appearance	...	Very faint opalescence with a few particles.
Turbidity (Silica Seale)	...	Less than 3
Colour A.P.H.A.	...	12
Odour	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	9.1

	Chemical Results in parts per Million
Free Carbon Dioxide	... Absent
Electric Conductivity	... 610
Total Solids	... 405
Chlorine in Chlorides	... 68
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	... 60
Hardness : Total	... 140
Carbonate	... 60
Non-Carbonate	... 80
Nitrogen in Nitrates	... 3.0
Nitrogen in Nitrites	... 0.1 approx.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	... 0.25
Albuminoid Nitrogen	... 0.30
Oxygen Absorbed	... 2.5
Residual Chlorine	... Absent
Metals, Iron: less than 0.03	... Other metals absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of Colonies developing on Agar per ml. in—

1 day at 37°C.	=	5
2 days at 37°C.	=	5
3 days at 20°C.	=	18

Presumptive Coliform	
Reaction	... Absent in 100ml.
Bact. coli	... Absent in 100ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	... Absent in 100ml

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance. It is alkaline in reaction but not to an excessive degree. Its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate. It shows a moderate degree of organic impurity corresponding with the slight colouration. Its bacterial quality is of high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

SOUTH ESSEX WATERWORKS COMPANY

ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES OF WATER PUMPED FROM THE WORKS AT LANGHAM AND LAYER-DE-LA-HAYE

(CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION)

	Langham	Layer-de-la-Haye
Appearance	Clear and Bright	Clear and Bright
Colour A.P.H.A.	10	under 10
Turbidity, silica scale	under 0.5	under 0.5
Odour	Nil	Nil
Taste	Nil	Nil
Electric Conductivity 20°C.	750	530
Total solids 180°C.	525	371
Reaction P.H.	7.90	7.82
Residual Chlorine	0.28	0.27
Chlorides as Cl.	42	42
Nitrate Nitrogen	3.2	0.9
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil
Hardness, non-carbonate	119	119
„ carbonate	276	135
„ Total	395	254
Free Ammonia	0.16	0.13
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.07	0.15
Oxygen absorbed 4hrs. 27°C.	0.95	1.30
Colony Count per ml. on Agar 1 day at 37°C.	4	5
Ditto 3 days at 20°C.	40	35 (4 days)
Presumptive coli absent in 100 ml.	100 ml.	100 ml.
Baet. Coli absent in 100 ml.	100 ml.	100 ml.
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Absent in 100 ml.	Absent in 100 ml.

STREET LIGHTING

Street lighting is provided in the following parishes :

Great Baddow.
 Broomfield.
 Danbury.
 East Hanningfield.
 Ingatestone.
 Great and Little Leighs.
 Margaretting.
 Mountnessing.
 Rettendon.
 Roxwell.
 Runwell (administered by Parish Council).
 Springfield.
 Stock.
 Great Waltham (administered by Parish Council).
 Little Waltham.
 Woodham Ferrers.
 Writtle.

SEWERAGE

Sewers are provided in the more populous areas of the following parishes :

Great Baddow.
 Broomfield.
 South Hanningfield (Ramsden Heath area).
 Ingatestone and Fryerning.
 Mountnessing.
 Roxwell.
 Runwell.
 Great Waltham.
 Little Waltham.
 Writtle.

The Galleywood and Great Baddow scheme is nearing completion.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING

The Rural District is within the area of the East Central Essex Planning Committee.

The Council, under delegated powers from the Essex County Council, deals with applications for permission to develop.

HOUSING

Details of Council houses and private houses erected during the year are given in the table on page 16.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE 10 YEARS 1946-56

PARISH	Council Houses erected during							Private Houses erected during							Totals			
	1946-1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Totals	1946-1949	1950	1951	1952	1953		1954	1955	1956
Great Baddow (s.p.a.) ...	(a)60	18	19	—	36	93	34	16	276	60	15	24	55	88	88	89	63	482
Great Baddow (o.s.p.a.) ...	24	8	14	—	—	—	—	—	46	12	—	—	—	5	19	26	13	75
Little Baddow ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	14	9	2	2	2	4	8	5	15	47
Boreham ...	14	18	4	—	—	16	21	—	73	10	3	—	2	3	7	7	10	42
Broomfield ...	(d)48	—	5	20	6	114	—	18	211	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	6	6
Chignall ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	4
Danbury ...	29	7	7	21	—	—	—	—	64	8	6	1	2	9	12	21	23	82
Good Easter ...	6	2	—	—	—	10	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	2
East Hanningfield ...	6	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3
South Hanningfield ...	10	—	—	—	36	6	—	—	52	21	2	2	4	4	8	3	11	55
West Hanningfield ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	3	—	1	—	3	—	10	17	34
Highwood ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Ingatesstone & Fryerning	(b)42	—	34	—	—	27	—	—	76	7	1	—	2	9	43	82	76	220
Great & Little Leighs ...	9	—	5	6	—	—	—	—	47	4	—	—	—	7	5	1	2	18
Margaretting ...	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—	14	18	—	2	4	6	2	1	2	35
Mashbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mountnassing ...	—	12	10	10	—	—	8	47	77	1	—	1	—	1	3	4	7	17
Pleshey ...	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Retendon ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	93	6	1	1	1	1	2	4	10	26
Roxwell ...	21	—	7	25	4	76	—	8	65	3	1	2	—	—	1	3	6	16
Runwell ...	20	—	10	—	—	2	2	—	34	18	1	2	1	13	30	72	95	232
Sandon ...	8	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	21	11	—	1	2	3	—	1	4	22
Springfield ...	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	3
Stock ...	6	10	9	10	13	—	—	—	48	6	—	—	2	4	3	2	9	26
Great Waltham ...	35	8	8	8	87	1	8	—	155	6	1	2	2	3	4	4	—	22
Little Waltham ...	8	—	13	7	4	—	—	—	32	2	2	—	4	—	—	1	4	13
Woodham Ferrers ...	4	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	20	15	3	3	3	7	4	7	12	54
Writtle ...	(c)48	—	—	26	20	32	5	—	131	19	1	1	1	2	4	8	10	46
Totals ...	447	98	150	176	206	377	100	89	1643	242	39	47	88	177	245	355	395	1588

Includes 90 Prefabricated Bungalows :— (a) 30, (b) 20, (c) 20, (d) 20.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births :	Legitimate	...	347	297	644
	Illegitimate	...	17	19	36
Still Births :	Legitimate	...	9	7	16
	Illegitimate	...	—	1	1
Crude birth rate per thousand of the population					16.5
Corrected birth rate per thousand of the population					17.0
Birth rate for England & Wales per thousand of the population					15.6

					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths	...	...	...	...	248	251	499
Crude death rate per thousand of the population							12.1
Corrected death rate per thousand of the population							9.9
Death rate for England & Wales per thousand of the population							11.7

Deaths from:—

Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age	...	15
Males, 7 (illg. 0) Females 8 (illg. 1),		

The following tabular statement shows age and cause of death of infants under 1 year of age.

Cause of death	LIVED FOR				
	less than 24 hours	1-7 days	1-4 weeks	1-12 months	Totals
Anoxia and Atelectasis	1	1	—	—	2
Premature birth	3	—	—	—	3
Asphyxia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Other known causes	1	2	3	4	10
Totals	5	3	3	4	15

Death-rate of infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	22·0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...			21·8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				27·7
Deaths from Malignant neoplasm (all ages)	...	...		80
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age (Males 4, Females, 7)				11

Natural increase of population, namely, the excess in the number of live births over the number of deaths since 1948 is shown in the following tabular statement.

Year	Number of Births	Deaths	Increase
1943	584	387	197
1944	670	427	243
1945	586	358	228
1946	693	396	297
1947	770	428	342
1948	726	371	355
1949	690	391	299
1950	642	405	237
1951	589	418	176
1952	590	402	188
1953	641	470	171
1954	602	455	147
1955	666	514	152
1956	680	499	181

Comparative Table of Birth and Death Rates During the Year, 1956.

Death rate for Chelmsford Rural District when corrected for age and sex was 9·9 per 1,000 population, and corrected birth rate was 17·0.

The deaths classified according to age were as follows :—

				Number of Deaths							
				Occurring in district		Of non- residents occurring in district		Of residents occurring outside district		Allotted to district	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...		4	1	—	—	3	7	7	8
1 and under	2	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	5	...		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	15	...		1	—	—	—	4	—	5	—
15	25	...		3	—	1	—	3	—	5	—
25	35	...		1	1	—	—	3	2	4	3
35	45	...		7	—	1	—	4	2	10	2
45	55	...		17	6	4	—	11	3	24	9
55	65	...		25	17	2	1	21	10	44	26
65	75	...		39	39	3	3	24	27	60	63
75 and over	...	...		61	84	6	8	34	64	89	140
Totals	...	...		158	148	17	12	107	115	248	251

The following table classifies the deaths according to cause and sex.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1
Syphilitic disease	—	3	3
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach... ..	6	4	10
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	12	2	14
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	9	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	29	17	46
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
Diabetes	2	1	3
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	31	40	71
Coronary disease, angina	44	28	72
Hypertension with heart disease	4	4	8
Other heart disease	18	40	58
Other circulatory disease	9	18	27
Influenza	1	1	2
Pneumonia	18	19	37
Bronchitis	16	7	23
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach and duodenum	3	—	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	1	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	2	5
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	36	52
Motor vehicle accidents	6	2	8
All other accidents	8	9	17
Suicide	6	3	9
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
All causes	248	251	499

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) 86,506 (land and inland waters).

Home Population (estimated,
June, 1956) 41,090

Number of houses as at 31st
December, 1956 13,504

Census population, 1951 ... 39,258 (males 18,814, females
20,444).

The rateable value of the district for the half-year commencing—

1st April, 1955, was £242,516

1st April, 1956, was £364,814

The sum represented by a penny rate, year ended

31st March, 1955 £953 3 8

31st March, 1956 £982 0 5

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the work of the department during the year.

Comments upon details of the work involved are made in the appropriate sections of the Report, and I would draw your particular attention to those on meat inspection and public cleansing.

I wish to express my appreciation of the ever ready assistance I have received from every member of my staff throughout the whole of the year.

A DENTON OGDEN.

*Chief Public Health Inspector and
Director of Public Cleansing.*

INSPECTION WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE HEALTH INSPECTORS

The following tabular statement gives details of the housing work carried out during the year.

1.	Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—	
	(1)(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	136
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	647
	(2)(a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	26
	(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ...	84
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	16
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	74
2.	Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :—	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	62
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—	
	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	38
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	By Owners ...	13
	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	10
	(2) Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	2
	(3) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders :—	
	By Owners ...	13
	(4) Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit for human habitation as a result of owners complying with undertakings to carry out works of repair ...	2
	(5) Number of houses demolished by owners as a result of informal action ...	5

INSPECTIONS AND PARTICULARS OF NOTICES FOR THE YEAR, 1956.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspections	Notices Outstanding at end of 1955	Notices Served		Notices		
			Informal	Statutory	Complied with	Cancelled	Outstanding at end of 1956
Infectious Disease Inquiries	62	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease Disinfections	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Houses Inspected under Public Health or Housing Acts	110	60	31	10	38	9	54
Houses "Carded" under Public Health or Housing Acts	26	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	326	—	—	—	—	—	—
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	185	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	7	—	1	—	—	—	1
Dirty Condition of Houses	7	1	—	—	—	—	1
Other Nuisances in Houses	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Closets	49	28	11	21	15	8	37
Privies and Pail Closets ...	65	14	1	—	3	3	9
House Drainage	629	82	81	34	74	23	100
Other Drainage	53	11	8	2	7	4	10
Water Supply	99	31	23	3	11	2	44
Urinals	20	2	1	—	—	—	3
Pig-Styes	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Animals Improperly Kept	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rats, Mice and Insect Pests	123	3	1	—	—	—	4
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures ...	724	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	12	1	—	—	—	1	—
Milk Retailers' Premises and Vans	32	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	46	—	1	—	1	—	—
Bakehouses	28	3	1	—	1	—	3
Restaurants and Cafes ...	5	1	—	—	—	—	1
Public Houses	16	3	—	—	—	—	3
Fresh and Fried Fish Shops	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses and Butchers' Shops	921	2	—	—	—	—	2
Kuackery Yards	48	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Food Preparation and Food Shops	401	3	21	—	5	2	17
Inspections under the Shops Acts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories:—							
(a) with Mechanical Power	37	3	—	—	1	1	1
(b) without Mechanical Power	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public Cleansing:—							
Dustbins	61	27	23	—	4	3	43
Refuse Dumps	335	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	209	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	226	8	29	—	10	4	23
TOTALS	4,906	283	233	70	170	60	356

The following table provides statistics of work done as a result of the service of Informal and Statutory Notices :—

Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Brick footings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Brick walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Chimney pots provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney stacks repaired or re-pointed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ceiling plaster, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dampness remedied other than by d.p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	4
Door furniture provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Door frames, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
External wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Fireplaces and stoves, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Floors repaired or re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	14
Internal wall plaster repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sink waste pipes provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Staireases provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Washhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Weatherboarded walls renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Window sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Window frames repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
Window sashes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspool overflows abolished	...	...	...	...	...	8
Choked drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drainage systems altered or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Drainage cut off from ditches, water courses etc.	...	...	...	...	...	38
Foul ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Foul ponds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Hot water units provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Main water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	5
Main water supply pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pail closet structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Pig-sty drainage improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Sewer connections	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sewage disposal plants cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soil ventilation pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet structures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water closet pedestals repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous items of work done	...	...	...	...	...	37

Moveable Dwellings. During the year, sixty-nine licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were in force to station moveable dwellings in the District. All such dwellings were kept under supervision.

The moveable dwellings are sited in the following parishes :—

Great Baddow	...	...	8
Little Baddow	...	...	11
Borcham	...	...	2
Broomfield	...	...	1
Chignal	...	...	1
Danbury	...	...	3
Good Easter	...	...	1
East Hanningfield	...	...	1
South Hanningfield	...	...	3
West Hanningfield	...	...	1
Highwood	...	...	2
Ingatestone	...	...	1
Great Leighs	...	...	—
Margaretting	...	...	1
Mountnessing	...	...	1
Pleshey	...	...	2
Rettendon	...	...	2
Roxwell	...	...	1
Runwell	...	...	2
Sandon	...	...	3
Springfield	...	...	3
Stock	...	...	5
Great Waltham	...	...	—
Little Waltham	...	...	2
Woodham Ferrers	...	...	5
Writtle	...	...	7

Six licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings were in force during the year. Details are as follows :

<i>Site</i>	<i>Owner</i>	<i>No. of Moveable Dwellings</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
May-Phil Swimming Pool, Battlesbridge, Rettendon.	Badger Building Company	10	Licence expires 7th March, 1957.
Mill Mead, Little Baddow.	F. J. May	15	Site is licensed during summer months only from 1st April to 30th September.
Hayes Farm, Battlesbridge, Rettendon.	V. H. Theobald	50	Licence expired 31st October, 1956. Use restricted to period 1st April to 31st October in each year.
Post Office Field, Boreham.	B. Harris	12	Licence expired on 31st December, 1956 and renewed for 10 only to 31st December, 1957.
Bramwoods Farm, Highwood.	W. A. Brown	12	Licence expired on 31st December, 1956 and renewed for 16 to 31st December, 1957.
Templegrove, Bakers Lane, West Hanningfield.	T. W. Packer	6	Temporary Licence to 15th October, 1957

Conditions are attached to each licence regulating the proper conduct of the site and these conditions have been complied with.

Due to the shortage of houses, applications for licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are still numerous. An intending caravan dweller must, in addition to obtaining a licence, obtain the consent of the Planning Authority. He should obtain planning consent before he applies for the licence under the Public Health Act.

A caravan, however modern and well designed it may be, is, after all, only a temporary substitute for a house.

Swimming Pool, The Chase, Ingatestone. The capacity of this open-air swimming pool is 180,000 gallons and it is fitted with a continuous purification plant. Sanitary accommodation is provided for both sexes.

Badger Country Club Swimming Pool, Battlesbridge. This open-air sea water swimming pool, with a capacity of 312,000 gallons, is situated about 250 yards from the Chelmsford-Southend Road on the bank of the River Crouch.

Byelaws, made under Section 233 of the Public Health Act, 1936, with respect to swimming pools and bathing pools came into operation on 1st January, 1954. These byelaws, which I greatly welcome, enable the Council to exercise greater control over the swimming pools in their District.

Water Analysis. Samples of water were taken by my department as follows :—

New mains	...	...	23
Swimming Pools	...	...	3
Wells	...	...	6

Clearance Areas :—

Two Clearance Orders, Numbers 20 and 21, were made during the year and confirmed by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. Details are :—

	<i>Number of Properties</i>	<i>Description</i>
No. 20	3	Cottages, Parsonage Lane, Howe Street, Great Waltham.
No. 21	5	1—4, Hope Cottages and The Old Post Office, Roxwell.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Health Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	80	37	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	85	6	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	165	43	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences { Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(S.7.) { Unsuitable or	—	—	—	—	—
{ Defective ...	—	1	—	—	—
{ Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	—	1	—	—	—

OUTWORK

Nature of Work (1)	Section 10			Section 11		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	55	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	55	—	—	—	—	—

MILK SUPPLY

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for the supervision of dairy farms, and this Council, under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, for the registration of distributors (who are not also producers) of milk, and for issuing dealers' licences and supplementary licences as set out below :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Number of registered milk distributors with premises in the District	26
Number of registered milk distributors with premises outside the District	8

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers' licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation : Tuberculin Tested	14
Number of supplementary licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation : Tuberculin Tested	6

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Number of dealers' licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation : Pasteurised	15
Sterilised	21

Number of supplementary licences in force during the year authorising the use of the special designation :

Pasteurised	7
Sterilised	5

Milk Sampling.

Forty samples of milk were taken for examination and all but one were reported upon as satisfactory.

Details are set out below :—

Tuberculin Tested	7
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	13
Pasteurised	16
Sterilised	4

40

BAKEHOUSES

The following table shows the number of bakehouses in use at the end of the year :—

GREAT BADDOW	...	...	Carters (Gt. Baddow) Ltd.
BROOMFIELD	...	...	G. H. Follett.
DANBURY	...	...	H. Digby.
			E. Roast.
GOOD EASTER	...	...	R. D. Miller
SOUTH HANNINGFIELD	...	...	G. Warder.
INGATESTONE AND FRYERNING			E. Warder.
			S. Raven
RETTENDON	...	...	H. and E. Benson
GREAT WALTHAM	...	...	Bigg Bros.
LITTLE WALTHAM	...	...	E. W. Amos.
WOODHAM FERRERS	...	...	Taylor and Woodland.
WRITTLE	...	...	A. W. Hance.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1933.

Ice Cream.

At the end of the year there were 120 registered vendors of ice cream.

The retailers' sources of supply are investigated before certificates are issued.

Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, which deals with the registration of ice cream premises is not in force in the District as the above local Act operates.

Ice Cream Sampling.

Fifty-two samples of ice cream were submitted to the bacteriologist for examination. The grades of the Ministry of Health Provisional Grading Scheme into which these samples were placed, together with the results for previous years, were as follows :—

	1956	1955	1954
Grade I	48	37	41
Grade II	4	6	4
Grade III	—	4	1
Grade IV	—	—	—

It is pleasing to report that none of these samples was unsatisfactory.

Twenty-four samples of ice lollies were taken and, of these, only one was reported as “ fair ” and the remaining twenty-three as “ excellent ” or “ satisfactory.” They are not subject to grading under the above-mentioned scheme.

In any case where a sample is reported upon as less than satisfactory, re-visits are made and the retailers advised as to the possible cause.

The above results signify the high standard of these products sold in the District.

CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Number of tins of—

Anchovies	5
Apricots	4
Beans	4
Corned Beef (12 oz.)	6
Corned Beef (6 lb.)	3
Cream	6
Evaporated Milk	12
Fruit Salad	1
Grapes	1
Ham (14 lb.)	1
Herring Roes	9
Jellied Veal (6 lb.)	1
Luncheon Meat	45
Minceed Beef Loaf	10
Orange Juice	2
Peaches	2
Pears	1
Peas	6
Pilehards	1
Pineapple	2
Plums	4
Prunes	1
Sardines	1
Soup	6
Stewed Steak	1
Strawberries	1
Tomatoes	3

Miscellaneous—

158 pounds imported beef.

Home Killed Meat (from shops only)

4½ pounds beef.

MEAT INSPECTION

Although the provision of a meat inspection service is not obligatory upon local authorities, your Health Inspectors have been able to continue to give a one-hundred per cent. inspection of all animals slaughtered in the District for human consumption, a standard which I consider to be most desirable.

A perusal of the accompanying Tables will, I think, prove that this is a service which must be maintained in order to prevent meat affected by tuberculosis and all the other varied diseases and conditions being used for human consumption.

The time taken on these duties amounts to the equivalent whole time work of one inspector with a considerable amount of necessary overtime, including weekends and public holidays.

TABLE I.

Animals inspected and number affected with disease, etc. (The figures in square brackets relate to the year 1955 and those in curved brackets to 1938—the last full pre-war year).

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>		<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>		<i>Pigs</i>
	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Lambs</i>		
Number inspected ...	2,482 [2,096] (404)	511 [599] (—)	826 [445] (86)	6,306 [5,672] (1,076)	13,206 [10,716] (4,049)
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	— [—] (—)	9 [3] (—)	4 [2] (—)	6 [9] (2)	12 [14] (7)
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned ...	516 [393] (11)	67 [55] (—)	6 [4] (3)	41 [377] (5)	497 [293] (194)
Percentage of the number inspected affected ...	20.8% [18.7%] (2.7%)	14.9% [9.7%] (0.0%)	1.2% [1.35%] (3.5%)	0.75% [6.8%] (0.65%)	3.85% [2.85%] (4.96%)
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	4 [3] (1)	— [4] (—)	— [—] (3)	— [—] (—)	1 [9] (5)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	77 [124] (19)	61 [58] (—)	— [—] (—)	— [—] (—)	139 [219] (411)
Percentage of the number inspected affected ...	3.26% (6.05%] (4.95%)	11.9% [10.3%] (0.0%)	0.0% [0.0%] (3.49%)	0.0% [0.0%] (0.0%)	1.6% [2.6%] (10.25%)

In addition to the above-mentioned condemnations, 6 (10 in 1955) bovine carcasses were found to be affected with the parasite *Cysticercus bovis* which causes the condition commonly known as "measly beef." The carcasses were released when we were satisfied that arrangements had been made for them to be held for three weeks in a refrigerator at 20 degrees Fah. This treatment destroys the eysts provided they are not generalised in the carcass musculature as well as in the usual sites of predilection.

TABLE II.

Reasons for and weights of condemnation.

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS—

		<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Cattle, Livers including Cows</i>	Abscesses	45	504
	Bacterial necrosis	7	88
	Cirrhosis	3	34
	Degeneration	13	174
	Distomatosis (parasitic)	409	3821½
	Hydatid Cysts (parasitic)	1	14
	Telangiectasis	33	458
	Abseesses	12	84
	Cysts (parasitic)	1	7
	Hoose	1	7
Lungs (pairs of)	Pleurisy	33	230
	Pneumonia	4	18
	Cysticercus bovis (para- sitic)	3	8
	Pericarditis	1	2
Diaphragms	Abseesses	2	6
	Cysticercus bovis (para- sitic)	3	6
	Inflammation	2	6
Kidneys	Atrophy	1	2
	Cysts (parasitic)	1	½
	Nephritis	4	9
Spleens	Abseesses	2	3
	Inflammation	1	1
	Torsion	2	4
	Tumour	1	2
Heads & Tongues	Abseesses	3	68
	Actinomyces (parasitic fungus)	5	150

Table II—*cont.*

			<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Cattle, including Cows (cont.)</i>		Cysticercus bovis (para- sitic)	6	180
	Tongues	Actinomycosis (parasitic fungus)	3	14
	Heads, diaphragms, and hearts	Cysticercus bovis (para- sitic)	3	106
	Forelegs	Traumatism	2	32
	Flanks	Oedema	1	30
	Hindquarters	Bruising	2	230
		Oedema	1	140
		Traumatism	1	40
	Carcases and all organs	Fevered Flesh	1	492
		Johne's disease (with emaciation)	2	943
		Pleurisy, peritonitis, pericarditis and oedema	1	450
		Septicaemia	1	480
		Septic metritis	3	1767
		Septic peritonitis	1	450
<i>Calves</i>	Lungs, Carcasses and all organs	Hoose	5	24
		Inmaturity	1	35
		Moribund	2	95
		Umbilical pyaemia	1	39
<i>Pigs</i>	Livers	Abscesses	1	4
		Ascarides (parasitic)	360	1235
		Cirrhosis	9	47
		Degeneration	2	7
		Echinococcal cysts (parasitic)	1	6
		Hepatitis	1	3
		Necrosis	8	34
	Lungs	Congestion	1	2
		Pleurisy	7	20
		Pneumonia	88	214
	Hearts	Pericarditis	3	7
	Plucks	Abscesses	2	14
		Congestion	10	62
		Inflanumation	1	6
		Traumatism	1	20

			<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Pigs</i> (<i>cont.</i>)	Kidneys	Cysts (parasitic)	15	15
		Nephritis	2	2
		Nephrosis	2	1
	Mesenteries	Cysts (parasitic)	2	2
	Spleens	Congestion	1	2
		Melanosis	1	1
		Traumatism	2	7
		Tumour	1	1
	Hindquarters	Abscesses	2	16
	Head	Abscesses	1	10
	Flare, Liver, Spleen and Mesentery	Inflammation	1	5
	Udders	Abscesses	2	26
	Hind Leg	Abscesses	1	6
	Hocks	Arthritis	5	24
		Inflammation	1	1
		Traumatism	1	10
		Traumatism	2	160
	Forequarters	Gangrenous pleuro- pneumonia	1	119
	Forequarter and Pluck	Erysipelas	1	89
	Carcases and all organs	Fevered Flesh	4	460
		Jaundice	1	160
		Pyæmia	1	102
		Septicæmia	2	192
		Septic peritonitis	1	101
		Swine Fever	2	338
<i>Sheep</i>	Lungs (pairs of)	Pleurisy	1	1
		Strongylides (parasitic)	1	3
	Livers	Cirrhosis	4	13
		Congestion	1	3
		Cysts (parasitic)	2	3
		Degeneration	1	6
		Distomatosis (parasitic)	13	46
		Inflammation	1	2
		Necrosis	6	16
		Strongylides (parasitic)	15	34
	Carcases and all organs	Emaciation	2	65
		Gangrenous pneumonia	1	50
		Oedema and congestion	1	56

			<i>Number of whole or parts</i>	<i>Pounds</i>
<i>Sheep</i>	Carcases and	Septic metritis	1	59
<i>cont.</i>	all organs	Septic pneumonia	1	85
Total weight condemned				15,197

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY

<i>Cattle,</i>	Heads (with tongues)	56	1673
<i>including</i>	Lungs (pairs of)	109	763
<i>Cows</i>	Livers	20	276
	Mesenteries	12	63
	Diaphragms	9	25
	Spleens	2	3
	Forequarters	7	845
	Hindquarters	4	461
	Kidneys	4	12
	Foreshins	2	20
	Side and Forequarter	1	390
	Carcases and all organs	5	3013
<i>Pigs</i>	Heads (with tongues)	133	1404
	Mesenteries	55	77
	Livers	5	13
	Lungs (pairs of)	6	12
	Carcase and all organs	1	83
<hr/>			
Total weight condemned			9,133

Weight condemned for all diseases except tuberculosis :

1955—5 tons 1 cwt. 71 lbs. 1956—6 tons 15 cwt. 2 qtrs. 21 lbs.

Weight condemned for tuberculosis :

1955—6 tons 4 cwt. 95 lbs. 1956—4 tons 2 qtrs. 17 lbs.

TOTAL WEIGHT CONDEMNED.

1955—11 tons 6 cwt. 54 lbs. 1956—10 tons 16 cwt. 1 qtr. 10 lbs.

The figures given in these Tables give some idea of the scope of this important work and of the time and skill which the inspections entail.

Although the quantity of meat and edible offal condemned may appear to be high, it should be considered in relation with the number of animals killed. The general quality of the animals killed in this District will, in my opinion, bear favourable comparison with that in any other District in the country.

It is pleasing to record that although the number of animals killed in 1956 showed an increase of nearly 20% over the previous year, the amount of meat condemned decreased by nearly 5%.

The causes of condemnations vary from year to year but certain general trends may be commented upon. There is a small but marked decline in the incidence of tuberculosis amongst cattle, particularly calves. So far as pigs are concerned, the percentage of the number killed affected with tuberculosis dropped from 10.25 in 1938, to 2.6 in 1955 and to 1.6 in 1956.

With regard to diseases other than tuberculosis, parasitic infections (mostly liver flukes in cattle and sheep and ascarides in pigs' liver) accounted for 37% of the meat condemned, compared with 50% in 1955, though in that year there was a very heavy incidence of parasitic infection in sheep and lambs which fortunately did not recur.

The whole of the meat condemned was voluntarily surrendered by those concerned and it was not necessary to resort to any legal action. An amicable understanding exists between the butchers and the Department and in all cases our judgments have never been questioned.

TABLE III : Slaughterhouses in use :

- J. Copsey & Sons, Rothmans, High Street, Great Baddow.
- L. Campen, The Street, Great Waltham.
- A. Fincham, High Street, Ingatestone.
- E. G. Patten, Ramsden Heath.
- H. Green & Son, Writtle. (Licensed but not used).

Fat Stock Guarantee Scheme

The Council has agreed to assist the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food in certifying the deadweight of pigs at slaughterhouses and the four slaughterhouses in use are registered by the Ministry as Certifying Centres. Your Health Inspectors have been appointed Certifying Officers.

The work of certification entails the marking and weighing of pig carcasses which have not been certified at liveweight centres. Records of weights, etc., are made and copies sent immediately to the Ministry and the producer. Weekly summary sheets and monthly returns are also made to the Ministry.

During 1956, 5,482 pigs were certified (representing 41% of the number killed) compared with 4,440 (representing 47%) in 1955.

Knackers Yard

There is one in the District, situate in the parish of Great Baddow.

This is a modern building erected in 1935. It is inspected regularly and no cause for complaint has arisen. It is owned and administered by Messrs. Harrison, Barber & Co. Ltd.

The annual licence permits the slaughter of horses at these premises and 10 were slaughtered there during the year.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

On the 1st January, 1956, the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, came into operation and thus the year is marked by another step forward in food hygiene legislation.

These Regulations, which extend the duties and powers of Local Authorities, were drafted after considerable discussion with representatives of the Food Industry. These discussions inevitably caused much publicity which later greatly assisted Local Authorities in applying the Regulations.

The food traders in the Council's District have generally been co-operative with the efforts of the Health Inspectors to secure the hygienic handling and storage of food and in many cases structural work has been carried out voluntarily in anticipation of the Council's requirements.

Any success which is to be achieved in this aspect of the Council's duties is to a large extent dependent upon public opinion. Housewives are therefore encouraged to report to the Department any instances in which lack of hygienic handling and storage of foodstuffs occur. Any such reports are thoroughly investigated.

The Regulations do not apply to slaughterhouses, cold stores, warehouses and carriers' premises, which are to be the subject of separate legislation now under consideration.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The District is growing rapidly and with every indication that it will continue to do so, some long-term plans must be prepared and approved if we are to give a satisfactory service to the ratepayers and spread the cost evenly over the coming years. The question of the Council's future policy in this matter has been referred to a special sub-committee of the Public Health Committee for consideration and report.

Refuse Collection.

When the first petrol-engined collection vehicle (costing £632) was put into service in this District in February, 1934, this replaced the two horse-drawn carts.

At that time, 2,500 houses in the parishes of Great Baddow, Broomfield, Ingatestone, Stock and Writtle were collected by direct labour. This service, which was weekly and restricted to the built-up areas of the parishes concerned, was given to approximately one-third of the houses in the District. Five 'controlled' tips were operated. The cost of the service in 1934/35 was just under £1,000 which worked out at about 8s. 0d. per house per year for a weekly collection. The rate was a special one on the areas concerned.

The built-up areas of Buttsbury, Fryerning and Mountnessing were collected by a contractor and, in 1935, Boreham was brought into this scheme on a monthly basis.

In 1938, Danbury and Roxwell were included in the contractor scheme and the number of tips reduced to two.

During the war, the scheme remained substantially the same in extent although after 1941 it became necessary to resort to a fortnightly collection (instead of weekly) owing to the increase in the amount of salvage. A second new vehicle was purchased in 1943 and the original vehicle was transferred to salvage collection. The rate was now a general one on the whole District.

In 1944, the scheme was as follows :—

Direct labour :	Great Baddow including Galleywood	Fortnightly
	Broomfield	Fortnightly
	Writtle	Fortnightly
Contractor :	Boreham	Monthly
	Danbury	Weekly
	Ingatestone	Weekly
	Mountnessing	Weekly
	Roxwell	Monthly
	Little Waltham	Monthly

After the end of the war, I reported in the 1946 Annual Report as follows: "There is a growing demand for such a service (refuse collection)—a demand heightened by the presence of the town-dweller who, through the exigencies of the war, has become a country-dweller. He has had to leave all the town services and amenities behind and does not always appreciate the difficulties involved in providing these in a rural area."

During 1946, a survey was made of the whole District and a scheme was prepared for the collection of refuse by direct labour and contractor from 9,200 houses—that is, from about 90% of the houses in the District. This scheme was approved by the Council in July, 1946.

The planned frequencies were weekly or fortnightly—but delays in the delivery of the new vehicles and the withdrawal of the contractor's offer before the scheme commenced, necessitated its modification so as to allow all the collections to be carried out by direct labour. In this modification, the frequencies had to be lessened—and from this set-back, with increasing costs and labour difficulties and our desire to keep the annual charges as low as possible—the scheme has never recovered.

In 1950, the transport for the service comprised the following :

<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Year Purchased</i>
7 cu. yd. Dennis	1943
11 cu. yd. S. & D. Mark II	1947
11 cu. yd. S. & D. Mark II	1947
11 cu. yd. S. & D. "W" type	1948
11 cu. yd. S. & D. "W" type	1950

A 16/18 cu. yd. S. & D. diesel-engined fore-and-aft tipper purchased in 1954 has proved a valuable addition to the fleet.

A 2 cu. yd. Ford was delivered in June, 1956, and this has been helpful in the collections from isolated properties and groups of properties and special establishments such as schools and canteens.

The establishment of twenty men in 1947 has risen to only twenty-four in 1956. Labour costs form the bulk (80%) of the expenditure.

The loader's weekly wage has risen as follows :

September 1939 :	£2 10s. 0d.
January 1946 :	£4 5s. 0d.
January 1949 :	£5 2s. 0d.
January 1952 :	£6 9s. 4d.
January 1956 :	£7 16s. 8d.
June 1956 :	£8 7s. 8d.

The following fact emphasises the labour difficulty under which the scheme is operating. During the five-months period 1st January to 31st May, 1956, there were only nine working days on which all the workmen reported for duty.

At the end of 1947, there were 10,694 dwellings in the District but at the end of 1956, this figure had reached almost 14,000 and the number is steadily increasing.

Over a quarter-of-a-million separate visits to properties are made each year.

The comparison of pre-war with post-war costs is not easy—but, as already mentioned in this report, the cost per house per annum in 1934 was about 8s. 0d., today this cost is about 24s. 6d.

These figures should be compared with the following points especially in mind—the devaluation of the £1 in the past twenty-two years and the fact that a loader's wage has risen from £2 5s. 0d. a week in 1934 to £8 7s. 8d. today. The collection in 1934 was certainly on a weekly basis but only the built-up areas of five parishes were collected.

The following tables show the present scheduled frequency of collection in the various parishes, the frequency approved in the 1946 plan and which should be aimed at now and a suggested order of priority for the change of frequency which might be done on a four-year plan as vehicles and men become available.

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Proposed (As in 1946 plan)</i>	<i>Order in Programme</i>	<i>Approx No. of Houses</i>
Great Baddow	Fortnightly	Weekly	1st year	2502
Little Baddow	Monthly	Fortnightly	3rd year	333
Boreham	Monthly	Fortnightly	2nd year	457
Broomfield	Fortnightly	Weekly	3rd year	707
Chignal	Monthly	Fortnightly	4th year	129
Danbury	Fortnightly	Weekly	2nd year	860
Good Easter	Monthly	Fortnightly	4th year	134
East Hanningfield	Monthly	Fortnightly	4th year	136
South Hanningfield	Part monthly Part fortnightly	Fortnightly	4th year	452
West Hanningfield	Monthly	Fortnightly	4th year	195
Highwood	Monthly	Fortnightly	3rd year	207
Ingatestone and Fryerning	Weekly	Weekly	No change	901
Great and Little Leighs	Monthly	Fortnightly	3rd year	398
Margaretting	Fortnightly	Fortnightly	No change	268
Mashbury	Monthly	Fortnightly	4th year	44
Mountnessing	Weekly	Weekly	No change	298
Pleshey	Monthly	Fortnightly	3rd year	124
Rettendon	Monthly	Fortnightly	1st year	419
Roxwell	Monthly	Fortnightly	2nd year	352

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Proposed (As in 1946 plan)</i>	<i>Order in Programme</i>	<i>Approx No. of Houses</i>
Runwell	Part monthly Part fortnightly	Fortnightly	2nd year	556
Sandon	Monthly	Fortnightly	3rd year	276
Springfield	Monthly	Fortnightly	4th year	154
Stock	Fortnightly	Weekly	4th year	467
Great Waltham	Part monthly Part fortnightly	Part Fortnightly	2nd year	652
Little Waltham	Part monthly Part fortnightly	Part weekly Part fortnightly	3rd year 2nd year	365
Woodham Ferrers	Monthly	Fortnightly	3rd year	713
Writtle	Fortnightly	Weekly	1st year 2nd year	921

Number of Houses Affected.

1st Year :	3634
2nd Year :	3463
3rd Year :	2745
4th Year :	1359

It is not easy to compare the amount of work done now with that done in previous years but the records we have show that the number of houses collected per man per day in 1954 was about half the number of 1934.

It must be added, however, that the week was then one of 48 hours instead of 44 hours. The hauls to the tips are longer (and these periods are, of course, "unproductive") and the amount of refuse to be collected has increased tremendously—and is still increasing. In 1934, it was usual to collect the refuse of 200-250 houses in one 7 cu. yd. load; in the same parish (Ingatestone) and with the same frequency, counts made in 1954 show that an 11 cu. yd. body was filled to capacity after collecting only 140 houses!

The garage accommodation at the Depot is now fully taken and further development on the existing site is not practicable. There is undeveloped land adjoining and the Sub-Committee has been asked to explore the possibility of extending the depot on to this land. Additional mess-room, washing and sanitary facilities would have to be included in any extension scheme.

For a year or so prior to 1956, the standard of repairs and maintenance of the vehicles has not been as high as desirable for it has been necessary to rely upon local garages who are not always able to give immediate service. During the year, however, one of the driver-loaders, who had proved himself a good mechanic with some experience was also appointed fitter-mechanic. Major repairs continue to be carried out by the manufacturers.

This joint appointment has proved its worth, especially in view of the fact that when he is not engaged on the repair and maintenance of the vehicles he is available as a driver-loader.

The small workshop has been improved and essential tools are being provided.

The petrol consumption of the vehicles for the last few years is set out in the accompanying table. Despite the ageing of the fleet, it is encouraging to see that petrol consumption (which is a guide to engine efficiency) is improving. I would add that our fitter-mechanic's usual vehicle when he is driver-loader is No. 5 and the figures for this vehicle speak for themselves.

REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES—FUEL CONSUMPTION.

	No. 2.	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	Average of Petrol Vehicles	No. 7	Austin A.40	No. 8 (Ford)
1951	6.3	6.6	6.5	5.4	7.3	6.42	—	—	—
1952	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.0	7.1	6.46	—	24.1	—
1953	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.4	6.47	—	26.4	—
1954	5.9	6.7	6.6	7.2	5.8	6.44	9.1	30.6	—
1955	6.0	7.4	7.1	7.1	7.2	7.00	10.2	27.5	—
1956	5.5	7.2	7.7	8.2	7.0	7.10	10.3	28.0	25.6

Refuse Disposal.

During the year, the following tips were in use :

Southgates Mill, Writtle. This tip (for which an annual rental of £25 has been paid) was completed in August, 1956, having been started on 30th December, 1954. Unfortunately, a deep-seated fire of unknown origin broke out on the 5th July, 1956. This necessitated two or three visits by the fire brigade and extensive bulldozing operations. The fire was not entirely dormant by the year end and a certain amount of final re-instatement of the tip is still to be carried out.

Salesfrith Farm, East Hanningfield. The disposal of refuse in a disused, unsightly pond—commenced on 12th March, 1956, and ceased on the 19th July, 1956. When a nearby ditch has been piped, tipping will re-commence.

Paprills Farm, East Hanningfield. This roadside tip, comprising three intereconnected small roadside ponds in which tipping commenced on the 20th July, 1956, was completed on the 1st December, 1956. After natural settlement has taken place, the area will be consolidated by bulldozer, levelled and sown with grass.

Mill Hill Farm, Rettendon. A small farmyard pond, which had fallen into disuse, was made available to us and tipping commenced on the 3rd December, 1956.

Little Belsteads Farm, Little Waltham. A small disused gravel pit was commenced as a tip on the 8th October. Here, as at Paprills Farm, East Hanningfield, a fence was erected by the Council to prevent grazing cattle gaining access to the tip.

All these tips, with the exception of the one at Writtle, were kindly loaned to the Council free of charge by the owners concerned.

The necessity of having refuse disposal sites in sufficient numbers in the right places is a problem which is causing me some concern. It is estimated that even at the present time the annual need is for at least one acre 6 feet deep, with adequate covering material on the site and a hard road access.

During the year, I opened negotiations with all the gravel pit owners in the District. In only one or two cases were any concrete proposals considered and in these the great difficulty was that the majority of worked-out pits available contained so much water. Towards the end of the year, however, some disused gravel pits were changing hands and the prospective owner offered certain of these as tipping sites. Negotiations are still proceeding.

The question of the provision of some form of mechanical aid on the tips has been referred to the special Sub-Committee. This is a most urgent problem; with a mechanical aid, we could use sites for refuse tips which cannot be considered under the present system and, at the existing tips, disposal could be carried out more efficiently. Even when covering is available, as for instance in a disused gravel pit, the hand-digging, barrowing and spreading is a slow, laborious and expensive operation—an operation which has not been advanced upon (except for the use of pneumatic tyres on the barrows!) since we first started controlled tipping nearly 30 years ago. A tracked or wheeled machine, with a dozer-loader blade, has become a real necessity.

A refuse collection service in any area is one which is constantly before the public and by its degree of efficiency, so is the Council judged by those who pay for the service.

Transport

The transport for the public cleansing service consists of the following vehicles :—

<i>Vehicle No.</i>	<i>Make</i>	<i>Capacity in cu. yds.</i>	<i>Date Purchased</i>	<i>Mileage</i>	
				1955	1956
2	Dennis ... ..	... 7	1943	8,741	7,727
3	Shelvoke & Drewry (Mark II)	... 11.3	1947	7,063	6,893
4	Shelvoke & Drewry (Mark II)	... 11.3	1947	8,450	9,154
5	Shelvoke & Drewry (W. Type)	... 11.3	1948	7,889	10,540
6	Shelvoke & Drewry (W. Type)	... 11.3	1950	8,360	8,812
7	Shelvoke & Drewry (Diesel Fore-and-Aft Tipper)	... 16/18	1954 (Oct.)	6,971	7,410
8	Ford ... ..	... 2	1956 (June)	—	5,910
Total ...				47,474	56,446
Austin A.40 pick-up (1950)		...	1952	15,335	15,728

Nightsoil Collection

The weekly collection of nightsoil is carried out in the following parishes by a contractor, Mr. G. Barker of Steeple, for the sum of £22 6s. 8d. per month.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of houses</i>		
Rettendon			
Battlesbridge	30
Hoe Lane	14
Woodham Ferrers	80

No complaints were received regarding the service.

PETROLEUM LICENCES IN FORCE DURING 1956

During the year, 162 licences to store petroleum spirit were granted. Of these 115 are for private installations (not for re-sale to the public) and 47 are for filling stations.

Four licences for the storage of cellulose were granted.

The total storage capacity is 162,940 gallons for petroleum spirit, and 200 gallons for cellulose.